

**ABSTRACT**

A method of estimating the pitch of a speech signal comprises the steps of sampling the speech signal to obtain a series of samples, dividing the series of samples into segments, each segment having a fixed number of consecutive samples, calculating for each segment a conformity function, and detecting peaks in the conformity function. The method provides also an intermediate signal derived from the speech signal, which is set to logical "1" where the intermediate signals exceeds a pre-selected threshold and to logical "0" where the intermediate signal does not exceed the pre-selected threshold, calculating the autocorrelation of the binary signal, and using the distance between peaks in the autocorrelation of the binary signal as an estimate of the pitch. Elaborate operations needed in prior art algorithms is thus avoided. A device conforming to the method is described.